UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1995/SR.58
3 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed substantive session of 1995

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 58th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 25 October 1995, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.35 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF KENNETH K. S. DADZIE

The PRESIDENT paid tribute to the memory of Kenneth K. S. Dadzie who had served the United Nations as Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation from 1978 to 1982 and Secretary-General of UNCTAD from 1986 to 1994. A special commemorative meeting of the Council would be held in Mr. Dadzie's honour.

At the invitation of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the resumed substantive session of 1995, as contained in document E/1995/119, was adopted.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1995/124)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations contained in document E/1995/124 and, in particular, to the draft decision in paragraph 6 recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Council entitled "Applications for participation in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council". He informed the Council that, on the basis of informal consultations, it had been proposed to add the following new operative paragraphs to the draft decision:

"The Council requests the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to meet urgently to continue its consideration of the remaining applications from organizations of indigenous people that are interested in participating in the Working Group, with a view to the Council receiving the Committee's recommendations in time to allow the

participation of the approved organizations including at the first session of the Working Group;

"The Council invites Governments wishing to submit their views on the applications to do so at an early stage."

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) read out a number of editorial changes to the draft decision.

Mr. DIN HAMID (Sudan) said that the draft decision dealt with an important and sensitive matter. Since there was a danger that the activities of the Working Group might become politicized, applications from groups of indigenous people wishing to participate in its work must be carefully scrutinized. The accreditation process must include consultations with the Governments involved. Yet, the second new operative paragraph, did not make clear how those consultations were to be carried out.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that upon receipt of an application from a group of indigenous people, the Centre for Human Rights would inform the Governments concerned by letter and invite them to comment.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) said that he supported both the draft decision and the proposed new operative paragraphs, which had the effect of enabling the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider most of the applications prior to the first session of the Working Group, thus encouraging the widest possible participation in its work. He was concerned, however, that the lack of availability of language services might hamper the Committee's deliberations. He requested therefore that the first session of the Working Group should be postponed to allow the Committee to complete the accreditation process.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that language services would be available for the meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Ms. FENG Cui (China) said that the second new operative paragraph was not consistent with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32. While paragraph 5 of that resolution stipulated that the Coordinator of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People should forward applications to the Committee only after consultations with the States concerned, the second new operative paragraph merely stated that Governments were invited to submit their views. That appeared to imply that the Coordinator

was no longer required to consult with States. Nor was it clear from Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32 which States were to be consulted. It was her delegation's view that the wording "the States concerned" should be interpreted to include not only States on whose territory groups of indigenous people were active, but also any State affected by the activities of those groups.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said he could assure delegations that no application would be submitted to the Committee without first affording States an opportunity to comment, as was clearly provided for in paragraph 4 of the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32. However, only States in whose territory the groups of indigenous people operated would be consulted.

Mrs. ESPINOSA (Mexico), supported by Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland), said that there had been no intention to undermine the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32. She proposed that, in order to clarify the point, the second new operative paragraph should be amended to read "in accordance with paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32, the Council invites Governments wishing to submit their views on the applications to do so at an early stage".

Mr. RATA (Observer for New Zealand) said that he shared the concerns expressed by Canada and stressed the need to ensure the widest possible participation by indigenous groups at the upcoming session of the Working Group. Accordingly, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should consider the remaining applications from organizations of indigenous people well in advance of that session. His delegation supported the draft decision in document E/1995/124 and the additional paragraphs read out by the Secretary.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that her delegation supported the inclusion of the two paragraphs read out by the Secretary and the amendment to the second paragraph proposed by China.

Ms. FENG Cui (China) said that her delegation could accept the inclusion of the two additional paragraphs with the amendment proposed by her delegation to the second paragraph.

Mr. BARRETO (Observer for Peru), referring to the list of organizations of indigenous people contained in the draft decision in document E/1995/124, said that his Government had objected to participation by the

Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana and that it should therefore be deleted from the list.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said that a request to Governments to comment on applications by organizations of indigenous people was tantamount to informing them that the organizations had applied for participation in the Working Group. The Committee had felt it necessary to encourage the participation of indigenous peoples in the formulation of a declaration that affected them and therefore had decided that the organization in question was fully qualified to participate. Nevertheless, in view of the observation made by the Peruvian representative, she suggested that the application by that organization should be put on hold until the Committee could review it.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision in document E/1995/124 with the inclusion of the two additional paragraphs and the amendment to the second paragraph, as well as the deletion of the reference to the Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana.

It was so decided.

Mr. COLOMA (Chile) expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the draft decision and stressed that it should be clearly understood that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would review the application from the Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana, take a decision on the matter and report back to the Council.

Ms. WONG (Australia) noted with satisfaction the adoption of the draft decision and expressed the hope that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations could meet as soon as possible in order to ensure the widest possible participation by organizations of indigenous people in the Working Group.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said that the Committee should try to determine how it should view the comments from Governments on applications by organizations of indigenous people since Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32 did not provide any clear guidance on the subject. The decision taken by the Committee in that regard would then be included in the report to be submitted to the Council, as proposed by the representative of Chile.

Mr. DIN HAMID (Sudan) said that his delegation had supported the adoption of the draft decision on the understanding that the Governments concerned would be fully involved in the decision-making process relating to applications from the so-called "organizations of indigenous people" and stressed the need to have a clear definition of such organizations.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS: TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR AND THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the final draft of the world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond (A/1995/123 and Corr.1).

Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), Vice-President, said that during the open-ended informal consultations in the working group, agreement had been reached on all paragraphs of the final draft of the world programme of action, except for paragraphs 56 to 58. In addition, a new text of paragraph 137 had been proposed but consensus had not been reached on the text owing to lack of time.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that the Committee should proceed with the adoption of the proposed new version of paragraph 137.

Mr. KAREV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had wished to propose the insertion of the phrase "and countries with economies in transition" after the word "countries" in the penultimate line of the proposed new text of paragraph 137.

Mr. FERNANDEZ (Spain) said that his delegation did not agree with the statement made by the Vice-President concerning the results of the work of the open-ended working group. The working group had completed its consultations on the final draft of the world programme of action and the results of that process were reflected in document E/1995/123. At a subsequent meeting held on 25 October to check whether there were any errors in the text, a delegation had put forward certain amendments. However, those amendments, were not part of the process completed earlier. He added that the new text of paragraph 137 was acceptable to his delegation.

The PRESIDENT said that there seemed to be general agreement on the new text of paragraph 137.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that agreement could be reached on paragraphs 56 to 58 if further time could be given for informal consultations.

The PRESIDENT said that the meeting would be suspended in order to allow for informal consultations with the aim of reaching agreement on the paragraphs in question.

The meeting was suspended at 6.45 p.m. and resumed at 7.15 p.m.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that while she had no objection to the proposal made by the Russian Federation, that point should be made in a separate paragraph since delegations wished to maintain the existing wording of the new version of paragraph 137. There did not seem to be consensus, however, on paragraphs 56 to 58.

The PRESIDENT said that, in view of the lack of agreement on the final draft of the world programme of action for youth, and the pressure of time, he would conclude consideration of the item and leave it to the President of the General Assembly to take appropriate action.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

(b) CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued) (E.1995/L.20 and Add.1 and Add.2, and L.67 and L.68)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to documents E/1995/L.20 and Add.1 and Add.2, which contained the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996 and 1997 in the economic, social and related fields. In its decision 1995/311, the Council had decided to retain the item entitled "Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields" in the agenda of its substantive session of 1995 in order to consider the question of the biennialization of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. HOPE (United States of America) introduced draft resolution E/1995/L.67 on the calendar of conferences and meetings, which was part of the general effort to reform the United Nations system and enhance its effectiveness. His delegation looked forward to consultations on the matter with other interested delegations.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1995/L.68, which contained a draft decision recommended by the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first session for adoption by the Council, entitled "Future sessions of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests".

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the costs of extending the second session of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, as proposed in the draft decision contained in document E/1995/L.68, would be met within the resources under section 26E, Conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to approve the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996 and 1997 in the economic, social and related fields as set out in documents E/1995/L.20 and Add.1 and Add.2, as revised by the adoption of draft decision E/1995/L.68 and with the deletion of the dates for the 1996 special session of the Commission on Social Development, which would be considered by the Council at a later date.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.